

Statement on Ethics Implications of Personal Fundraising/Crowdfunding
Solicitations during the Shutdown (January 24, 2019)

Recently there has been media coverage of steps Federal employees have taken to mitigate the effect of the lapse in appropriations on their households. A heartening aspect of this is the groundswell of community goodwill towards affected employees and their families, and all NASA centers have disseminated information on ways members of our NASA team can seek assistance during this difficult time.

Media has also reported on isolated cases of open Internet personal fundraising by affected Federal employees. NASA employees are cautioned that personal fundraising efforts can implicate various U.S. Government ethics restrictions, including but not limited to prohibitions on soliciting gifts because of official position, and from entities that do business with the Agency. Moreover, in existing guidance, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) has stated that “employees may not use their official titles, positions, or authority associated with their positions to further fundraising efforts.”

NASA employees should take care to ensure their actions comply with all U.S. Government ethics requirements, which apply during the shutdown. Materials available for employees that may assist in this and other ethics areas include:

- The Standards of Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, Subpart B, which can be downloaded
here: [https://www.oge.gov/Web/oge.nsf/0/076ABBBFC3B026A785257F14006929A2/\\$FILE/SOC%20as%20of%2081%20FR%2081641%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.oge.gov/Web/oge.nsf/0/076ABBBFC3B026A785257F14006929A2/$FILE/SOC%20as%20of%2081%20FR%2081641%20FINAL.pdf)
- U.S. Office of Government Ethics guidance, “The Standards of Conduct as Applied to Personal Social Media Use,” April 9, 2015, available at
[https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/16D5B5EB7E5DE11A85257E96005FBF13/\\$FILE/LA-15-03-2.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/16D5B5EB7E5DE11A85257E96005FBF13/$FILE/LA-15-03-2.pdf?open)
- The general principles outlining the basic obligation of public service, as expressed in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.101, which can be viewed
here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2005-title5-vol3/xml/CFR-2005-title5-vol3-sec2635-101.xml>
- Resources on the U.S. Office of Government Ethics web page
here: <https://www.oge.gov/>
- NASA’s supplemental ethics regulations
here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2016-title5-vol3/xml/CFR-2016-title5-vol3-part6901.xml>

Affected NASA contractor employees may contact their respective employers for guidance concerning their standards of conduct requirements.